AMENDMENT

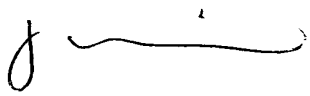
Please cancel claims 91-96, 103-108, 116-122, 125-132, 134, and 135.

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated August 19, 2002, claims 91-96, 103-108, 116-122, 125-132, 134, and 135 were found to be allowable in the application. These claims were filed in a continuation application that was filed on October 21, 2002, and therefor should be cancelled from this application. Thus, claims 97-102, 109, 112-114, 123, and 137-143 are pending. A copy of the pending claims is provided in Appendix A. A copy of the filed Appeal Brief, in which this Amendment is referenced, is included for the Examiner's convenience.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (512) 536-3081 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX A:

Pending Claims

97. A process of screening a substance for its ability to specifically bind to an opioid receptor, said process comprising the steps of:

a) expressing a recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide encoded for by a nucleic acid sequence comprising at least 30 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO:11;

b) contacting said substance with the opioid receptor polypeptide; and

c) detecting the ability of said substance to specifically bind to said opioid receptor polypeptide.

98. The process of claim 97, wherein said opioid receptor polypeptide is encoded for by a nucleic acid sequence comprising at least 40 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO:11.

99. The process of claim 98, wherein said opioid receptor polypeptide is encoded for by a nucleic acid sequence comprising at least 50 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO:11.

100. The process of claim 99, wherein said opioid receptor polypeptide is encoded for by a nucleic acid sequence comprising at least 75 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO:11.

101. The process of claim 100, wherein said opioid receptor polypeptide is encoded for by a nucleic acid sequence comprising at least 100 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO:11.

102. The process of claim 101, wherein said opioid receptor polypeptide is encoded for by a nucleic acid sequence comprising at least 680 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO:11.

109. A process of isolating a substance with an ability to act as a specific agonist of a kappa opioid receptor, said process comprising the steps of:

a) providing an opioid receptor polypeptide comprising the second extracellular loop comprising the amino acid sequence of residues 111 through 136 of SEQ ID NO:12 and encoded for by a nucleic acid sequence comprising at least 30 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO:11;

b) contacting said opioid receptor polypeptide with a composition comprising said substance;

c) detecting the ability of said substance to bind to said opioid receptor polypeptide; and

d) isolating said substance if the ability of said substance to specifically bind to the opioid receptor polypeptide is detected.

112. The process of claim 109, wherein said opioid receptor polypeptide is encoded for by a nucleic acid sequence comprising at least 75 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO:11.

113. The process of claim 112, wherein said opioid receptor polypeptide is encoded for by a nucleic acid sequence comprising at least 100 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO:11.

114. The process of claim 113, wherein said opioid receptor polypeptide is encoded for by a nucleic acid sequence comprising at least 680 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO:11.

123. The process of claim 143, wherein said opioid receptor polypeptide is a kappa opioid receptor polypeptide encoded for by the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 11.

137. A process of screening a substance for its ability to act as a specific agonist of a kappa opioid receptor comprising:

a) expressing a chimeric recombinant opioid receptor polypeptide comprising the second extracellular loop comprising the amino acid

sequence of residues 111 through 136 of SEQ ID NO:12, wherein said chimeric opioid receptor polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence comprising 30 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO:11;

b) contacting said substance with the opioid receptor polypeptide; and

c) detecting the ability of the substance to specifically bind to the opioid receptor polypeptide.

138. The process of claim 137, wherein said nucleic acid sequence comprises 40 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO:11.

139. The process of claim 137, wherein said nucleic acid sequence comprises 55 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO:11.

140. The process of claim 137, wherein said nucleic acid sequence comprises 70 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO:11.

141. The process of claim 137, wherein a portion of the chimeric opioid receptor polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:14.

142. The process of claim 137, wherein the chimeric opioid receptor polypeptide comprises polypeptide portions of both kappa and delta opioid receptors.

143. The process according to claim 97 wherein the opioid receptor polypeptide is a kappa opioid receptor polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:12.